

Apr. 7 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

Statement on the Death of Tammy Wynette

April 7, 1998

Hillary and I were deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of Tammy Wynette. For more than 30 years, Tammy Wynette defined the Nashville sound that helped to make American country western music popular all over the world. Her string of number one hits has* filled music halls, homes, and radio waves, and her

trademark style has* filled our hearts and made her a legend. From the Mississippi cotton fields where she worked as a child, to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry where she presided as the First Lady of country music, Tammy Wynette was an American original, and we will miss her.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Waiver on Most-Favored-Nation Trade Status for Vietnam

April 7, 1998

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to subsection 402(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974, (hereinafter the "Act"), I have issued an Executive order waiving the application of subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 of the Act with respect to Vietnam.

I wish to report to the Congress that I have determined that the requirements of subsections 402(c)(2)(A) and (B) of the Act have been satisfied.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate. The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Message on the Observance of Passover, 1998

April 7, 1998

Warmest greetings to all those celebrating Passover.

This sacred holiday commemorates the long and arduous exodus of the Jewish people to the promised land of Israel. Despite centuries of slavery and oppression, the Israelites, strengthened by the promise of salvation, refused to abandon their dreams of freedom. In their darkest moments of persecution, the hope of liberation and redemption burned bright in their hearts, lighting their way to a new land and a new life.

Passover holds special meaning for us this year as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the modern state of Israel. It

is a powerful reminder of the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people, of the quest for freedom and dignity that unites us all, of God's powerful presence in our history, and God's constant loving concern in our lives.

As the Jewish community across America and around the world commemorates this holy season, let us pray together for peace in the land of Israel, for the tranquility of its people, and for a bright and hopeful future for us all.

Hillary joins me in extending best wishes for a memorable Passover.

BILL CLINTON

* White House correction.

NOTE: This message was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 7.

Remarks at a Democratic Business Council Dinner in Chicago, Illinois *April 7, 1998*

Thank you very, very much. Let me thank all of you for coming tonight, and especially to Lou and Ruth for opening their home and giving us this wonderful meal, and Ramsey Lewis and the other fine musicians. You get a comedian after me. *[Laughter]* I used to tell jokes, and I was pretty good at it, and they made me stop. They said it wasn't Presidential, so now I have to have help.

I want to thank Mike and Pat Cherry and Howard and Judy Tullman and anyone else who was responsible for this dinner tonight. On behalf of Steve Grossman and Len Barrack, we're very grateful for the help and support you're giving to our party.

I think I saw Congressman Conyers walk in here a minute ago; there he is. Thank you, John, for being here. I want to thank Gary LaPaille, who is leaving his post after many years as chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois, for his work in that regard. Thank you, Gary.

I want to say a word—I thought that when Dick Durbin got wound up a while ago we were about 3 days from election day. *[Laughter]* That speech had the kind of juice you expect when you're coming right down to the wire. I want to thank Senator Durbin for many things. He has been a great friend to me, to our administration, and to this country. I was thrilled when he was elected, and I have been even more pleased by his service. He has exceeded even my high expectations, and you should be very, very proud of him. He has done a great job for you.

I want to say a little more about Carol Moseley-Braun in a moment, but I was very delighted to see not only what Dick Durbin said but the reception that you gave for her. I hope very much that she will be re-elected. I intend to do everything I can to help her get re-elected. And I think that for her advocacy of education reform alone she has earned the right to be re-elected United States Senator from Illinois.

I'd also like to say a word for someone who's not here, our nominee for Governor, Glenn Poshard, who's been a great Congressman from southern Illinois. And I've had a chance to work with him now for over 5 years. I like him very much. He is an extremely able political leader, and he has—when Dick and Carol and I were riding in here together from the airport, we were laughing about Glenn Poshard's fanatic support he got in the Democratic primary. He got 98 percent of the vote in his hometown, and I think that's a pretty good indication of what the people who know him best think. So the way I've got it figured, if the rest of us could help the rest of Illinois know him as well, he'll do quite well in the fall.

I was thinking when all this storm came up, when the tent began to sway, this is the way I live every day in Washington. *[Laughter]* Believe me, I've found that if you just keep standing up, most of the time the tent won't fall. *[Laughter]* And if the storm blows over you, you won't melt. Ninety percent of it is just showing up every day. It gratifies your friends and confounds your enemies; it's a good thing to do. *[Laughter]*

I wanted to say to all of you, I just came back from this incredible trip to Africa, and I won't give you a travelog. If you followed it in the press, you know pretty much what we did. But let me say it was, for me, not only as your President but as a citizen, it was an astonishing experience. Hillary went to Africa with Chelsea about almost exactly a year ago, and they went to many of the same places that I went, although not all. And they had many of the same experiences I did, although not all, but I was sort of prepared for this at one level.

But I was literally overwhelmed by the energy of the place and the refusal of people to be ground down by the most difficult of circumstances. I guess the most emotional moments of the trip were when I flew into Rwanda to meet with six survivors of the genocide, which